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**Subject:** FW: News Clips (PFCs)

See last sentence in last article on navy grumman

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**From:** Rodriguez, Elias  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 14, 2016 9:07 AM  
**To:** R2 EPA Region 2 (EPA Staff) <R2\_EPA\_Region\_2\_EPA\_Staff@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** News Clips (PFCs)

Opinion  
Daily Gazette

**Lots of blame, little comfort at hearings**

By Sara Foss Tuesday, September 13, 2016

If you're hoping to hear someone take responsibility for the mess in Hoosick Falls, then the legislative hearings on water contamination in the small Rensselaer County village have likely been a disappointment.

If you're waiting for someone to apologize, or concede that mistakes were made, or acknowledge that the situation might have been handled better, you're probably going to be waiting a long time — possibly forever.

Thus far, state officials seem unwilling to admit just how poorly they handled reports of high levels of the toxic, industrial chemical PFOA in Hoosick Falls' drinking water.

Instead, key players such as state Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker have been defensive, evasive and eager to blame others for their own shortcomings.

State officials have tried to make a scapegoat of the EPA, accusing the federal agency of giving "confusing, changing and inconsistent guidance."

The EPA, for its part, has rejected this version of events, arguing that the Department of Health disagreed with the EPA over how to respond to Hoosick Falls. "There was no confusion between the EPA and the Health Department," said Judith Enck, EPA Region 2 administration. "There was disagreement."

The back-and-forth between the DOH and EPA is revealing.

It suggests that the defensive and controversy-averse mindset that caused the state to drag its feet and downplay water contamination concerns in Hoosick Falls remains deeply entrenched.

It makes you wonder whether state officials will learn anything from this sorry episode, or whether they'll continue to behave as if the EPA somehow victimized them.

It raises questions about whether the Department of Health is ready to stop bickering with the EPA and work with the federal agency to do what's best for the residents of New York.

The EPA's Hoosick Falls response hasn't been perfect, but it's been much better than the state's, which might explain why DOH and the state Department of Environmental Conservation are so eager to deflect blame.

In truth, the two agencies have long disagreed over what constitutes a safe level for short-term PFOA exposure.

For years, the EPA-recommended level was 400 parts per trillion. New York's recommended level was much higher — 50,000 parts per trillion.

In 2015, state officials became aware that Hoosick Falls' water tested at 600 parts per trillion, but did not see fit to alert residents that they were drinking water the federal government considered unsafe. Earlier this year, the EPA lowered the recommended level of PFOA to 100 parts per trillion, then to 70 parts per trillion.

Confusing?

Perhaps to the casual observer.

But Zucker is reputedly a brilliant man.

Perhaps this is why Enck maintains that the EPA's PFOA adjustments shouldn't have been difficult for top officials at DOH to understand.

"The state Health Department are distinguished professionals," she said. "They can follow the number of 400 to 70." If they can't, that's a problem.

Sadly, it wasn't a "distinguished professional" at the state agency charged with safeguarding public health who first raised the alarm about PFOA in Hoosick Falls.

It was Michael Hickey, a Hoosick Falls resident who began investigating why so many village residents were getting sick after his father died of kidney cancer.

That it took so long for state officials to respond to his concerns is an embarrassment.

The legislative hearings haven't provided Hickey and so many others with the apology they deserve.

But they've been revealing all the same.

Courier Times

## **NJDEP subgroup recommends lower limit for PFOA than EPA**

By Kyle Bagenstose, staff writer

19 hrs ago

Art Gentile/Photojournalist (File) Valerie Hanraty pours water from the kitchen faucet in her home on Woodbrook Drive in Horsham on Thursday, Aug. 18, 2016, to be sent away for testing.

The chemical's name is a strange one: perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA. But the unregulated chemical is potentially toxic, and it's being found in more and more water supplies across the nation, including the Delaware Valley.

Federal and state agencies have been grappling with the chemical and trying to answer a key question: How much can a person safely consume without potentially suffering health effects, such as a suppressed immune system, a damaged liver, reproductive issues or even cancer?

According to a new recommendation from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Drinking Water Quality Institute, the answer is not a whole lot.

The institute, a subcommittee of health and environmental researchers, released a long-awaited report Monday that recommends a limit of 14 parts per trillion (ppt) in drinking water to protect against health effects during a lifetime of consumption. With the contamination of growing concern nationally, the recommendation likely will cause a stir because it is just a fraction of the 70 ppt limit recommended by the federal Environmental Protection Agency in May.

And the 70 ppt level recommended by the EPA was a dramatic decrease over the agency's prior, short-term recommended limit of 400 ppt. The new 14 ppt recommendation from the Drinking Water Quality Institute is just 3.5 percent of the amount considered by many regulators to be the safe limit only four months ago.

The EPA said Tuesday it stands by its 70-ppt advisory limit.

"EPA's drinking water health advisories are based on the best available peer-reviewed studies of the effects of PFOA and PFOS. EPA's health advisories serve as guidance to assist federal, state, tribal and local authorities, and managers of public or community drinking water systems," read a statement emailed by press officer Enesta Jones. "States may issue different values based on their own analyses, including more stringent values that may reflect more conservative assumptions."

In other words, because PFOA is unregulated, states are free to set their own limits.

And New Jersey is doing just that. The 14-ppt recommendation is a step toward regulation. A bill making its way through the state Senate would force the DEP to approve or reject such recommendations within six months, or the recommended limits automatically would become enforceable standards.

According to New Jersey DEP press director Bob Considine, current procedure calls for a 60-day comment period on the recommendation. At the conclusion, the institute would then make a final recommendation to the agency's commissioner.

"If the commissioner decides to proceed with rule making, DEP would follow the rules and guidelines of the New Jersey

Administrative Procedures Act, which includes stakeholdering, drafting and proposal of a rule, public comment period and hearing, and then adoption," Considine explained via email.

New Jersey has been one of the most active states in researching a safe level of the chemical. The 14-ppt recommendation replaces a 40-ppt limit the New Jersey DEP recommended in 2007. It also now becomes the nation's lowest recommendation of any regulatory body, although only a handful of states have moved to create their own, with most abiding by the EPA's 70-ppt recommended limit.

But New Jersey also is one of the states most affected by the presence of PFOA. According to data provided by the EPA, 14 of the state's water systems were found to contain the chemical during a two-year, nationwide testing program. That's the most of any state. All of those systems contained at least 20 ppt of the chemical, meaning they would be considered unsafe if the 14-ppt recommendation becomes law.

The EPA program identified five Pennsylvania water systems that contained the chemical, including Warminster, Warrington, Horsham and Doylestown. Public wells in there have have been closed because of contamination from PFOA and sister chemical perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS).

But an implication of the 14-ppt limit is that more water systems might be at risk. At the time of the EPA testing, PFOA could be detected only in amounts of 20 ppt or higher, meaning more New Jersey and Pennsylvania towns could be over the 14-ppt limit.

If made law in New Jersey, the 14-ppt limit wouldn't apply to Pennsylvania communities. But the new recommendation feeds into ongoing debate over safe limits in Bucks and Montgomery counties. The military has taken responsibility for most of the contamination there because PFOA and PFOS are found in firefighting foams that were used at a trio of military bases in the area.

However, the military is abiding by the EPA's 70-ppt limit and isn't paying for filters or alternative water sources for wells that are affected below that level. That cost is going to local water customers. Residents and elected officials have called for the military to extend its funding and remove the chemicals completely.

A review of past test results in Bucks and Montgomery counties show a number of active wells above the 14-ppt level. Horsham, Warminster and Warrington have initiated plans to remove PFOA and PFOS from their water systems entirely, mainly by deactivating all groundwater wells and buying replacement water from North Wales Water Authority.

If the 14-ppt recommendation is truly the safe level for the chemical, the townships' decisions will prove protective. The Warminster system had five active wells that tested at or above that amount this year, while Horsham had three and Warrington had one. These wells are separate from those closed for even higher levels of contamination.

Three other active public wells in Bucks and Montgomery also have fallen above that amount, according to results provided by water regulators and local water authorities. A well in Bristol Township measured at 18 ppt in February, Hatboro's well 9 tested at 17 ppt in July, and Buckingham's Fieldstone wells tested at exactly 14 ppt earlier this year.

The Buckingham and Bristol wells are miles away from area military bases, so the chemical's presence there is likely not a result of pollution at the bases. That's also the case in Doylestown, where a well containing as much as 210 ppt of PFOA was closed in May. The Pennsylvania DEP is investigating the extent and source of contamination there.

But private well owners in both counties also could be at risk. Maps provided by the military show dozens of wells contain the chemicals below the 70 ppt EPA limit, although they don't indicate how many are at or above 14 ppt.

Virginia Cain, community relations coordinator with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, wrote in an email Tuesday that the agency typically follows EPA health advisories, but will review the New Jersey advisory.

"DEP has followed the development of the DWQI (water quality institute) recommendations, and will review the final version, as it continues to evaluate and review emerging scientific research related to PFC contamination," Cain wrote.

To date, no public or private water supplies in Burlington County have shown the presence of PFOA. However, a previous investigative report from this news organization detailed widespread use of firefighting foams at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and identified nearby public and private water supplies that may be at risk of contamination.

The military announced in August that it had sampled 17 drinking water systems on the base. That was a change from April, when Staff Sgt. Caitlin Jones, a public affairs officer with the joint base, said there were no plans to sample those systems. "The (base's) water system supplies are not adjacent to any known potentially contaminated sites," Jones wrote in an April email.

Base personnel said Tuesday that results from the on-base water supply testing could be available as early as next week.

New Jersey DEP officials previously have said public and private water wells near the joint base haven't been tested

yet, as on-base investigations are still ongoing. However, they previously expressed confidence that water supplies outside the joint base are not at risk of contamination, and Considine wrote Tuesday that the agency still has no plans to test off-base supplies.

NHPR

## **New Jersey's PFOA Recommendation Is One-Fifth the EPA's**

By EMILY CORWIN • 14 HOURS AGO

As New Hampshire regulators consider adopting the EPA's PFOA health advisory as the state's enforceable standard, a New Jersey committee has recommended setting a much lower standard in that state.

Perfluorichemicals like PFOA are found in Teflon, pizza boxes and firefighting foam. They've contaminated drinking water near Merrimack and at the former Pease Air Force base, and many affected here in New Hampshire argue the EPA's advisory level of 70 parts per trillion is not safe enough. Presently, New Hampshire regulators are considering adopting the EPA's standard.

On Monday, a state-appointed committee of researchers in New Jersey recommended to state regulators there that drinking water contain no more than 14 parts per trillion of the chemical PFOA. That's one fifth the federal government's recommendation. It should be noted, however, the New Jersey level only accounts for PFOA, while the federal government's level accounts for both PFOA and a related chemical, PFOS.

Jim Martin with New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services says regulators here will take New Jersey's new recommendation into consideration before they finalize the new state rule.

County Times

## **DEP drinking water advisory panel recommends lower limit for PFOAs**

By Kristina Scala and Kyle Bagenstose, staff writers

15 hrs ago

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Drinking Water Quality Institute on Monday released its recommendations to lower the limit for perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, in drinking water.

And, if approved, the maximum contaminant limit of the unregulated chemical would be the lowest in the nation. New Jersey has been one of the most active states in researching a safe level of the chemical. The 14-parts-per-trillion recommendation replaces a 40-ppt limit the New Jersey DEP originally recommended in 2007.

To date, a maximum contaminate level for PFOAs has not been established in New Jersey. The 40-ppt level was set as a lifetime drinking water guidance of PFOAs, according to DEP spokesman Bob Considine.

In a long-awaited report released by the DEP on Monday, the institute, an advisory panel of health and environmental researchers, recommended that it lower the limit for PFOA in drinking water to 14 ppt.

A 60-day comment period will begin at the end of the month after the panel submits its final recommendations to the state at a public meeting on Sept. 22.

DEP is expected to propose a health-based maximum contaminate level, or MCL, for PFOA following the institute's recommendation, wrote NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin in an Aug. 18 letter sent to state Sen. Bob Smith, D-17th of Piscataway, who chairs the Senate Environment and Energy Committee.

"The MCL will be based on sound, robust and legally defensible science, and will be appropriately protective of public health and the environment," Martin wrote.

To date, no public or private water supplies in Burlington County have shown the presence of PFOA. A previous investigative report by this news organization detailed widespread use of firefighting foams at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

The recommendation follows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's May recommendation to drop the PFOA maximum contaminant level to the 70-ppt limit in drinking water to protect against health effects over a lifetime of consumption.

Already, the 70-ppt level recommended by the EPA was a dramatic decrease over the agency's previous, short-term recommended limit of 400 ppt. The institute's 14-ppt recommendation is just 3.5 percent of the amount considered by

many regulators to be the safe limit only four months ago.

Since it is an unregulated chemical, states set their own maximum contaminant level.

Requests for comment were made to the EPA and DEP regarding the recent release of the panel's report. This story will be updated if a response is received.

The institute's 14-ppt recommendation is the first step toward regulation in New Jersey.

A bill making its way through the state Senate would force the DEP to approve or reject such recommendations within six months or else the recommended limits would automatically become the enforceable standard.

While New Jersey is considering the lowest-in-the-nation recommendation, only a handful of states have moved to create their own recommendation or standard. Most are abiding by the EPA's 70-ppt recommended limit.

The Garden State also is one of the states most affected by the presence of PFOA.

According to data provided by the EPA, 14 of the state's water systems were found to contain the chemicals during a two-year, nationwide testing program. That's the most of any state.

All of those systems contained the chemical at least 20 ppt, meaning they would be considered unsafe if levels still eclipse 14 ppt and the recommendation becomes law.

Doug O'Malley, director of Environment New Jersey, said the recommendation is long overdue. He said environmental advocacy groups will now watch and wait.

He said it's been a "slow train coming on adopting recommendations" from the institute under Gov. Chris Christie's administration. It's been seven years since DEP adopted a recommendation made by the institute, he said.

O'Malley sees the recent recommendation as a sign that the state is moving forward with strict standards and recognizing that PFOA contamination in New Jersey is significant.

"It says that it's pervasive, and it says that at nearly any level a PFOA is unsafe in our drinking water," he said. "There's science saying a restrictive standard of 14 ppt isn't restrictive enough. This is a step in the right direction, but we need DEP to listen to the science on PFOAs."

At Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, like military installations nationwide, releases of hundreds of thousands of gallons of firefighting foam, which contains perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and PFOA, have occurred in the past 50 years.

Under a directive issued by the Air Force, testing of 17 public drinking water systems began in August to determine if the releases have tainted water systems servicing residents and employees on the base.

Prior to the military directive, joint base officials stressed that testing was not required for drinking water systems since all 17 of the systems on the base serve less than the EPA's population threshold.

Last year, preliminary testing found four on-base sites with groundwater and soil contamination. An additional 30 sites were also identified as locations where firefighting foam had been released.

A company has since been hired by the Department of Defense to conduct soil and groundwater testing at 21 sites.

Curtis Frye, chief of the joint base's Environmental Restoration Program, said in August that the 21 sites are included in the 30 sites identified as locations where firefighting foam had been released. The sites adjacent to one another were merged prior to the start of testing.

About 60 percent of the sampling on the base is complete, with the last of the samples expected to be finished by the end of October, Frye said.

The results of the testing, which began earlier this month, will determine the extent of PFOS and PFOA contamination and if further testing off the base is needed.

DEP officials previously said public and private water wells near the joint base have not yet been tested, as on-base investigations are still in process. However, they previously expressed confidence that the supplies are not at risk of contamination.

The earlier EPA program identified five Pennsylvania water systems that contained the chemical, including in Warminster, Warrington, Horsham and Doylestown, where public water wells have already been closed due to contamination of PFOA and PFOS.

The New Jersey recommendation feeds into the ongoing debate over safe limits in Bucks and Montgomery counties in Pennsylvania. The military has taken responsibility for most of the contamination in those counties, as PFOA and

PFOA are found in firefighting foams that were used at a trio of military bases in the area.

However, the military is abiding by the EPA's 70-ppt limit, and is not paying to provide filters or alternative water sources for wells affected below that amount. That bill has instead been stuck with local water customers, and residents and elected officials have called for the military to extend its funding and remove the chemicals completely.

## NJ SPOTLIGHT

### TOUGH NEW LIMIT PROPOSED FOR A TOXIC CHEMICAL IN NEW JERSEY'S DRINKING WATER

JON HURDLE | SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

If adopted, the new standard for PFOA would make the state a national leader in regulation of the chemical

Environmentalists on Tuesday welcomed a proposal by New Jersey's Drinking Water Quality Institute to set a tough new limit on the presence of PFOA, a toxic chemical, in drinking water, saying that if adopted by the Christie administration, it would make the state a national leader in regulation of the chemical.

The DWQI, a scientific panel that advises the Department of Environmental Protection, recommended a maximum contaminant limit (MCL) of 14 parts per trillion (ppt) for the chemical. This is significantly lower than guidance levels of 70 ppt and 40 ppt set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the New Jersey DEP, respectively.

The chemical – formally called perfluorooctanoic acid – was commonly used for non-stick cookware, stain-resistant fabrics, and firefighting foam, and was phased out by eight major U.S. manufacturers following a voluntary agreement with the EPA in 2006 with the goal of eliminating it by 2015. Other manufacturers, especially outside the U.S., continue to make the chemical, adding to water contamination that is left over from previous production, the DWQI said.

PFOA in public water systems may expose people to kidney and testicular cancer, high cholesterol, thyroid disorders and hypertension in pregnancy, according to an EPA health advisory in May this year. Animal tests have found the developing fetus is particularly sensitive to PFOA, which also has been linked to liver and kidney toxicity and immune-system problems.

The chemical was found in 12 New Jersey water systems supplying water to 1.3 million people at levels above the state's guidance level at various times over the last nine years, the DEP said in January.

In 2014, a long-delayed DEP report said it found PFOA and other perfluorochemicals (PFCs) in two-thirds of New Jersey water systems sampled in 2009 and 2010. PFOA was the most common type of PFC, found in 55 percent of water systems, including Atlantic City, New Brunswick and Paulsboro.

In its latest report issued on Monday, the DWQI said PFOA can enter the environment from firefighting foams; disposal in landfills; wastewater treatment plant discharge; street and storm water runoff; and land application of biosolids, industrial solid waste, and wastewater. On an individual level, sources of exposure to PFOA include treated fabrics, protective sprays and waxes, and cosmetics and personal care products, DWQI said.

Advocates for a lower limit on PFCs said the proposal represents significant progress after several years of inaction by the state.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network, an outspoken advocate for tougher limits on PFOA and other members of the PFC family of chemicals, welcomed the DWQI's proposal as a milestone in regulation of the chemical. The network's deputy director, Tracy Carluccio, called the recommendation "the biggest step" by any government entity toward setting a safe drinking water standard for the chemical. "If DEP follows through and adopts it, it will be the strictest in the nation and set a new bar for the removal of these toxins from our drinking water," she said.

The DWQI is expected to formally adopt the recommendation at a meeting on Sept. 22 and then put it out for public comment for 60 days. Comments will be reviewed by the DWQI's working groups and any changes will be incorporated into a final report before being submitted to DEP Commissioner Bob Martin.

If Martin accepts the recommendation, he will begin the process of setting a MCL, which will allow the state to regulate the chemical for the first time.

The DEP has not publicly responded to an earlier recommendation by DWQI for PFNA, another PFC chemical, which the panel made in mid-2015.

Dr. Keith Cooper, chair of the DWQI, said the proposed standard represents a strong protection for the public, and if adopted will be one of the strongest in the nation. "From a scientific point of view, we feel pretty confident about this," he told NJ Spotlight.

The DWQI's three working groups – on health effects, treatment, and detection – have determined that the new limit

would be achievable, Cooper said. Any water system that finds PFOA at levels above the limit can treat it with granular activated carbon filters, he said. "There are technologies out there that can be employed," he said.

Without the carbon technology, regular treatment of affected public water supplies will fail to remove PFOA, the DWQI said.

After being formally recommended to the DEP, the new MCL will enter the public domain, and may become a national benchmark because it is stricter than those recommended by the EPA and many other states, Cooper said. "This information will become available to the federal agencies and all other states which are dealing with this issue," he said. "They can look at our evaluations and compare it with what they have done."

The Environmental Working Group, a Washington DC-based group that has conducted a national analysis on PFOA, welcomed the DWQI's proposed limit but highlighted research calling for an even tighter limit.

"There is science that indicates that, in order to be protective of possible effects to the immune system, a safe level in drinking water may be even lower still," said David Andrews, senior scientist with the EWG. "The continued downward march of what scientists consider to be a safe level in drinking water should raise some concerns for places that are contaminated," he said.

Daily Gazette

### **Stratton Base investigated for possible PFOS contamination**

By Brett Samuels September 13, 2016

PHOTOGRAPHER: PATRICK DODSON

The Air National Guard is investigating its Stratton base in Glenville, seen here in 2014, after the facility was found to have intermittently used firefighting foam since the 1950s that contained PFOS.

GLENVILLE — The Air National Guard is investigating its Stratton base in Glenville after the facility was found to have intermittently used firefighting foam since the 1950s that contained PFOS.

The base will be submitting a Site Investigation Work Plan by October, and is expected to begin field work in December, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation said in a statement on Tuesday. There are no known water supply impacts or threats at the facility as of now, the organization said.

Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, or PFOS, is a pollutant similar to PFOA, which was found in abnormally high levels in the drinking water of residents in Hoosick Falls. Both chemicals have been linked to cancer and other health issues. PFOS is a key ingredient in Scotchgard, which is a fabric protector, and firefighting foams like those used at the Stratton Air National Guard base.

Through the Governor's Water Quality Rapid Response Team, the state is evaluating the surveys of 2,500 likely users of compounds similar to PFOS, and will be performing additional sampling near any areas of potential concern, the DEC said.

As a result, the Air National Guard will submit its plan by next month and begin field work by December to further determine if there are any impacts caused by the chemical. That process involves sampling water around the base, for example, the DEC said.

In August, Stewart Air National Guard Base in Orange County, New York, was designated as a state Superfund site because of the use of PFOS. The designation means the state would seek to have the U.S. Department of Defense pay for cleanup costs.

PFOS is unregulated at the federal level; however, the DEC in April added the chemical to the state list of hazardous substances.

### **New York State adds Gabreski airport to Superfund list**

By Emily C. Dooley

Updated September 12, 2016 10:00 AM

Newsday

New York State on Monday added Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach to its Superfund list, saying the facility poses a significant threat to human health after a hazardous chemical not regulated by drinking water

rules was recently found there.

The announcement came during a water quality hearing in Smithtown hosted by the state's Senate and Assembly health and environmental conservation committees to examine groundwater contamination issues and whether current policy and regulations adequately protect public health.

"The Air National Guard has committed to addressing the contamination, but they cannot move quickly enough," Seggos said. "Until they step up, the state will fill that void and assist the community."

More than 30 speakers addressed the committees Monday, discussing infrastructure funding, nitrogen pollution, Superfund sites, unregulated contaminants, water conservation, algal blooms, fracking waste, state drinking rules and other concerns locally and elsewhere in the state.

Seggos also said the state had committed to giving \$5 million for Stony Brook University's Center for Clean Water Technology to develop new technologies to treat emerging contaminants.

The money will pay for grants to water suppliers to conduct pilot projects on new ways to remove and filter contaminants. It will also fund research to develop removal systems and commercialize the technologies as an economic development component.

"This is an investment the whole state will benefit from," said Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker. "Perhaps one day our modern technologies will be able to remove contaminants before we even know about them."

Zucker said the state will approve a pilot project to test a new treatment method to remove the chemical 1,4-Dioxane, a solvent that is a potential carcinogen and was found as part of an EPA survey of drinking water supplies nationwide.

During a similar hearing Wednesday in Albany, state officials pushed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to expand its program that surveys public water supplies to those serving populations of less than 10,000 people.

"Working together with environmental experts, elected officials and community stakeholders, we are holding polluters accountable, investing in water treatment technologies to keep our natural resources safe, and laying the groundwork for a cleaner, brighter future for the state of New York," Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said in a news release.

Seggos also discussed the 1-mile-wide and 3-mile-long groundwater contamination emanating from a former Navy and Northrop Grumman manufacturing site in Bethpage.

Contamination was first discovered in the 1940s and the site was added to the Superfund program in the early 1980s but the contamination is still spreading.

"Whether it's foot-dragging or inertia the pace of the cleanup has gone on for too long," Seggos said.

###